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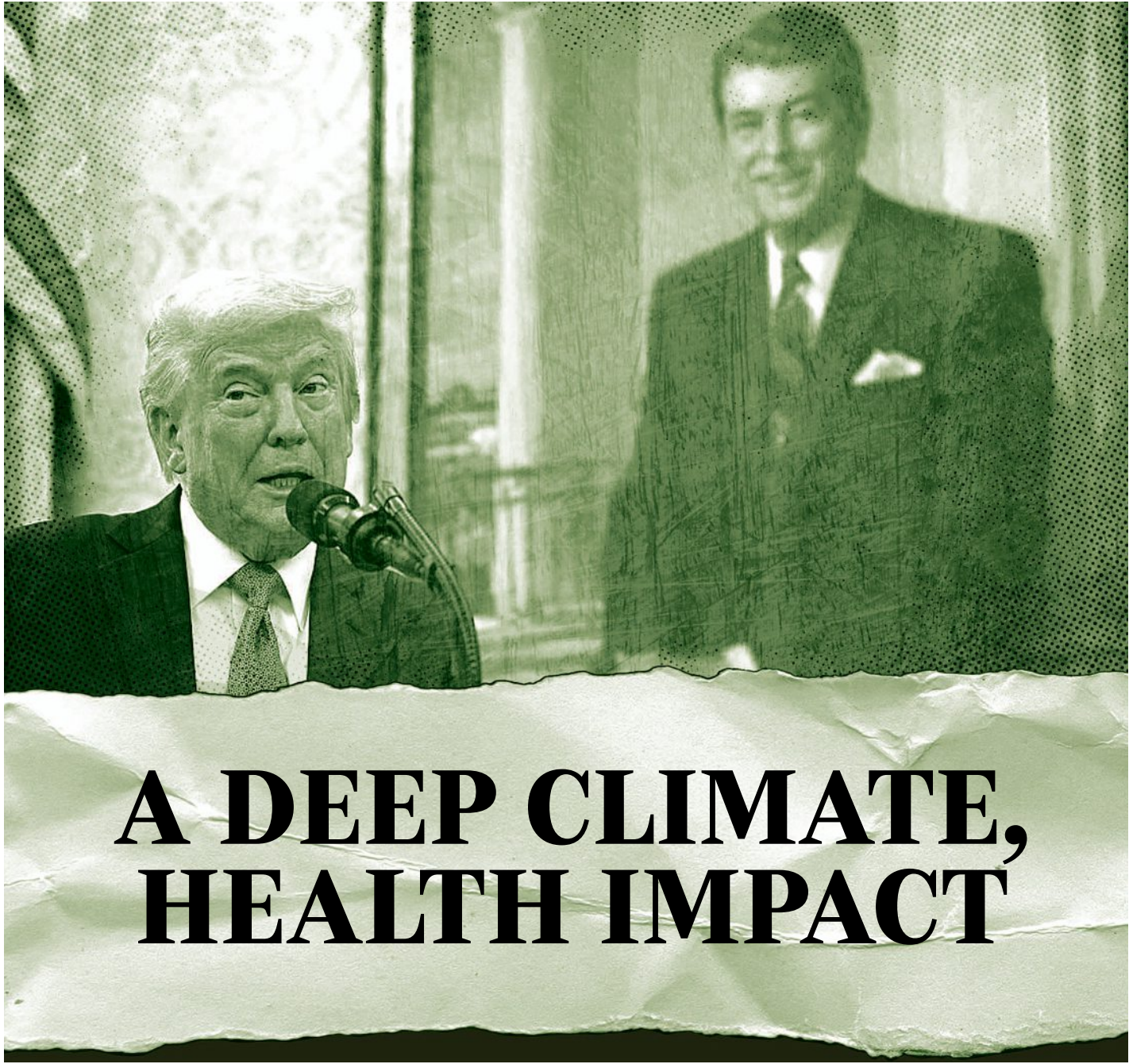
GALESBURG

# The Register-Mail

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## Like Reagan, Trump is cutting environmental regulations

Barbara Kates-Garnick Tufts University | THE CONVERSATION

When the Trump administration announced it was moving to eliminate dozens of U.S. climate policies, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin said he was sending “a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion.” • That drive – to both repeal environmental regulations and cast doubt on science – reflects the Trump administration’s approach to environment policy. • Deregulation has long been a key theme in Republican environmental policy. The conflict between the obligation to protect public health and the desire to boost markets traces back to former President Ronald Reagan’s administration. Reagan’s perspective that government is not a solution to problems, but is the problem instead, set the stage for Republican administrations that followed.

Reagan argued that the growth of government spending and business regulation had stymied economic prosperity. Environmental regulations were a prime target. Forty years later, America is seeing many of the same concepts in President Donald Trump’s administration. However, its strategy could have a greater effect than Reagan ever envisioned.

### Slashing budgets and staffing

There are many ways to kneecap government agencies: Instituting massive budget cuts, cutting staff with critical functions and appointing leadership whose goal is limiting the reach and effectiveness of the very agencies they direct are just a few. In these efforts, Reagan and Trump had similar approaches to the EPA, al-

though with different levels of intensity. Trump’s EPA budget plan for 2026 includes a draconian 50% cut from the previous year and the lowest budget proposal, when adjusted for inflation, since Reagan. Staff cuts in just the first six months of the second Trump administration put the agency’s total employment at 12,448, down from 16,155 in January. Reagan dissolved the EPA Office of Enforcement to limit “unnecessary regulation,” which resulted in a 80% decline in actions to enforce environmental regulations. Trump is also stopping enforcement actions, dismantling the EPA’s Science and Research Office and politicizing the agency’s science by putting political ap-

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Steven Cook, a Trump appointee, once represented chemical companies that are fighting a rule that would require them to clean up PFAS pollution. He has now proposed scrapping the rule, The New York Times reports.

AT TOP: Former President Ronald Reagan and President Donald Trump have taken similar approaches to the EPA, although with different levels of intensity. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY FERNANDO HERNANDEZ/USA TODAY NETWORK; SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

# Driving ATVs in Illinois

## Know what’s legal and what’s not

Tom Ackerman  
Springfield State Journal-Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Feeling the urge to drive your four-wheeler to the gas station for a pop? Doing so would could be illegal on Illinois streets, highways, and roadways. Here’s how you might be able to get away with driving a quad to the store, depending on where you live.

### What is a non-highway vehicle?

According to Illinois law, a “non-highway” vehicle is a motor vehicle that is not specifically designed to be used on a public highway, including all-terrain vehicles, golf carts, off-highway motorcycles, and recreational off-highway vehicles.

### Exceptions

Local governments may authorize a non-highway vehicle to be driven on streets where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. “A municipality, township, county, or other unit of local government may authorize, by ordinance or resolution,

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## ON THE MARKET: 4-bedroom Dahinda home listed for \$295,000

Kathi Edwards  
Special to the Galesburg Register-Mail  
USA TODAY NETWORK

**Address:** 1065 Lakeview Road South, Dahinda  
**Property description:** This four-bedroom, two-bathroom ranch home has views of Oak Run Lake and 1,744 square feet of living space on a .31-acre lot. The lakeside home has an open floor plan, a Florida Room, a versatile four-season room, with five sliders that connect to the deck that spans the entire back of the house with unobstructed lake views. The home, built in 1978, had updates in 2025 including a master bathroom remodel, water heater, microwave and dishwasher. Air conditioner and furnace, luxury plank flooring, interior doors, gutter guards, fireplace and stove/oven were new in 2023. There is an attached, two-car garage. There are vaulted ceilings and a gas

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